Mr. Padmanabha Pillai (*Eraniel*) *and Mr. Ponniah Nadar of Eraniel* (*Nominated*) prayed that the irrigation tanks and canals of Edanad might be restored.

Mr. M. Madhavan Tampi (*Kalkulam*) remarked that even when Kodayar water might become available for the public, the necessity for the restoration and maintenance of the present irrigation tanks of Nanjanad and Edanad would still remain, as Kodayar water was not expected tc irrigate all wet lands. He suggested that this difficulty might be kept in view and steps taken for improving all the irrigation tanks of the Southern Division.

Reply.—Government are fully alive to the need for irrigation and drainage works throughout the State. The relative importance and urgency of such works in each division will be kept in view and funds allotted as far as possible. No doubt, Government are now hampered on account of the Kodayar Project works. But it is intended to the extent that finances may permit to provide for the improvement of rain-fed tanks and feeding canals and for drainage works. Already in reference to the Shencottah taluk which also depends on rain-fed tanks for irrigation, proposals have been invited from the Chief Engineer, as a result of my recent inspection, to organise a survey party to prepare a scheme of irrigation works for the taluk. In the Southern Division also, all necessary works especially in rain-fed tanks, such as closing breaches and repairing sluices, are attended to, and a definite programme for taking up the tanks systematically is under preparation. As regards the proposal for the establishment of a separate Irrigation department, it has to be stated that under the new scheme all the irrigation works in the State have been placed in charge of the Public Works Department and irrigation being a part of the work of that department for which distinct provision is made in the State budget, it does not seem necessary to constitute a separate department of irrigation either for the whole State or for any of the different divisions. The difficulty pointed out by Mr. Madhavan Tampi will also be borne in mind.

131. Disallowance of the claim of the Public Works Department to 20 feet of road fringe as Government property.

Mr. H. D. Deane (*Rubber Planters' Association*) represented that at present the Public Works Department lay claim to 20 feet

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of land on either side of the road as Government property in planting districts and this stood in the way of the planters being enabled to put up wire fences on them so as to prevent the encroachment of stray cattle on their estates. The member said he had no objection to permit the D. P. W. to use these road fringes for public purposes and observed that the wire fences were so made that they could be temporarily removed.

Reply.—In the notification of 1053, a width of 20 feet on either side of the road is prescribed for all roads where Sirkar land is available. Even otherwise, in practice, this width is sought to be secured in the interests of public convenience and it does not seem desirable to change this practice. If the wire fence is to be put up beyond the 20 feet, there can possibly be no objection to it. However, in each particular case, all difficulties may be represented and they will be sought to be remedied as far as possible.

132. Distribution of water from tanks to fields.

Mr. K. S. Shanmukham Pillai,(Agricultural Improvement Association, South Travancore) represented that at present water was not properly distributed in Nanjanad from irrigation tanks to paddy fields and that efficient arrangements should be made for the equitable distribution of the same.

Reply.—Under the rules of 12th Medom 1081, the distribution of water to fields from irrigation tanks has been entrusted to the D. P. W in all cases in which the Revenue department had control before. As regards tanks in which the distribution is left to the ryots, the need for some supervision is apparent and the views of the Chief Engineer and the Peishkar will be invited.

133. Obstruction of the flow of water from feeding channels to tanks.

Mr. K. S. Shanmukham Pillai, (Agricultural Improvement Association, South Travancore) represented that some people obstructed the flow of water in certain hill-streams by placing temporary dams over them and diverting them for unauthorized purposes, the result of this being that many of the irrigation tanks in Nanjanad were not sufficiently replenished with water at the proper seasons.

Reply.—This is a matter for disposal by the local authorities when individual cases are brought to their notice.

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